

*Thank you for viewing the  
Beloved portraits!*

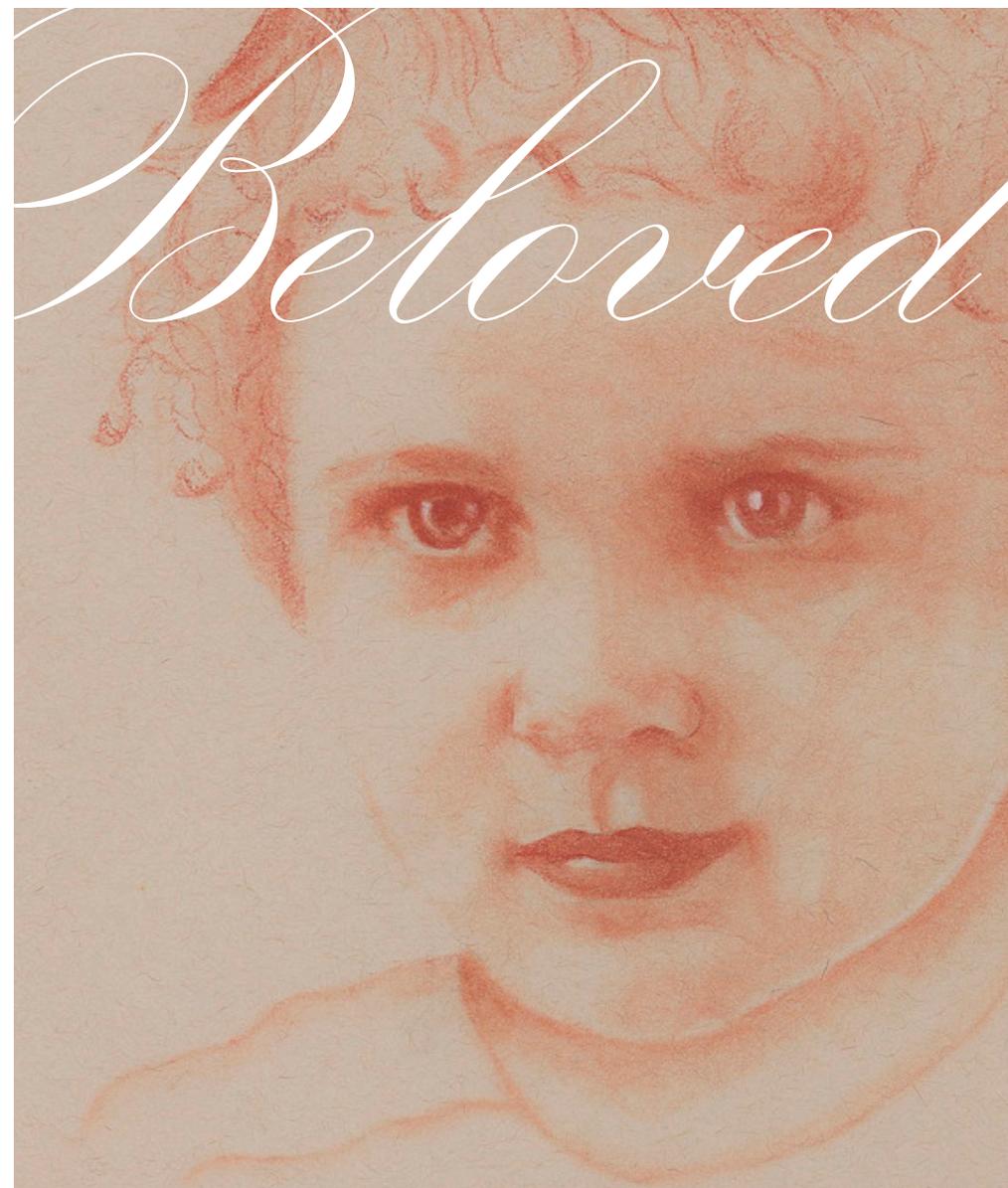
I hope you were moved by your experience with these special children and will cherish their memory. The portraits are available for exhibit and educational purposes by churches, synagogues, secondary schools, colleges and universities, museums, and civic organizations. If you would like to schedule an exhibit, please contact me directly. I am happy to present lectures and gallery talks to accompany exhibitions.

Please be aware that in order to protect the children's memory, the portraits are copyright protected and may not be used in any format, including social media, without express consent.

Peace and blessings to you and yours –  
Mary Burkett

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*Children of the Holocaust*

— Mary Burkett —

# *Welcome!*

My name is Mary Burkett. I am not an artist. I am a nurse. I have no artistic training whatsoever. The sum total of my experience with drawing is skimming a book and attempting a few sketches in 2008. In January 2017, I decided to try sketching again. Searching for subjects on the Internet, I was captured one day by the face of a little boy named Hersch, and I do mean captured. I felt as though Hersch were calling out to me to be drawn, and I simply couldn't say no. I printed out his picture and began drawing. In a matter of hours, something quite amazing occurred. Hersch peeked out of the paper at me, just as if

he had been hiding there all along. I, with no artistic training, watched as he slowly came to life under my hand, and he became not a drawing, but a little boy. What I didn't know when I first saw Hersch was that he had died in the Holocaust, murdered at Auschwitz at four years old. I also didn't know that his sweet face was just a beginning. There are now 27 portraits, each one unique and precious to me. I have searched for information on their little lives because I believe they deserve to be remembered, and I have made every effort to be accurate. Come with me now, and I'll introduce you to the Beloved Children of the Holocaust.

with her mother and her brother Philip, who was four, on December 11, 1942. She was three years old. Her father died at Auschwitz on February 28, 1943.

## **25. Abraham Henselein**

Abraham was born on October 22, 1935 in Amsterdam. He died with his mother, Hendrika Drieker Henselein, age 29, at Auschwitz on November 11, 1942. His father, Moses, was a prisoner at Bleckhammer until January 21, 1945. On that date almost 4,000 prisoners were taken on a death march to Buchenwald. Some prisoners were shot at the inception of the march, and Moses died on that day. The name Abraham means "father of nations". Don't you think this young boy was aptly named?

## **26. Albert Elias Podalsky**

Little Albert was born December 21, 1939 in Antwerp in Belgium and died October 3, 1942 at Auschwitz. There was only a fragment of a photograph remaining of Albert with much of his head missing. I couldn't leave him

behind, however, so I drew just his precious face. Can you tell if his little life is just emerging from the mist or receding? Perhaps it's both.

## **27. Dr. Janusz Korczak and the Orphan Child**

Dr. Janusz Korczak was a renowned pediatrician and author in Warsaw, who gave up his medical practice to open an orphanage for Jewish children. Although he never married or had children of his own, when asked if he had children, he would reply, "Yes, two hundred." When the Nazis took over Warsaw, he was forced to move his orphanage into the ghetto, and he spent the next years struggling to feed and care for "his children". On August 5, 1942, the Nazis came to liquidate the orphanage and although he was given the opportunity, Dr. Korczak refused to abandon the children. As reported by eye-witnesses, he led them down the streets of Warsaw, two by two, dressed in their finest clothes, singing. They were taken to Treblinka, where Dr. Korczak died with his children.

Leon was taken from his mother. Sarah and Isaac were deported to Auschwitz on August 7, 1942. Ten days later, Leon was deported to Auschwitz in Convoy 20, the first of seven large convoys of children forcibly separated from their parents. The convoy contained 584 children, ages three to eighteen, classified in each railway car according to date and place of birth, nationality, and last-known address. The children were given no food or water, and many died as they were transported to Auschwitz. Leon died on August 19, 1942.

### **7. Rachel Van Gelder**

Rachel was the daughter of Simon Andries Van Gelder and Eva de Leeuw. She was born on April 15, 1937 in Amsterdam and was five years old when she died with her mother at Auschwitz on July 26, 1942. After the war, the guards from Auschwitz reported how tenderly mothers would embrace their children and whisper to them to reassure them on the way to the gas chamber. Rachel's father died September 29, 1942 at Auschwitz at age 31.

### **8. Mietje Blok**

Baby Mietje was from Den Haag in the Netherlands, and she was

just 8 months old when she died at Auschwitz on December 15, 1942. Notice the way she shyly tucked the left side of her face into her dress when the picture was taken causing her little lip to pout out.

### **9. Jenny van Dam**

Sweet Jenny was born on July 11, 1937 to Louis Benjamin and Fanny Adelheid Helena van Dam in Groningen in the Netherlands. She was five years old when she died with her mother and her brother Benjamin, age seven, at Auschwitz on October 19, 1942. Her father died at Auschwitz two and a half months later on December 31, 1942.

### **10. Samuel Jezierski**

Little Samuel, with his beautiful curls, was born on February 8, 1939 to Jehuda and Pesia Jezierski. He lived in the Wilno ghetto in Poland with his mother until March 27, 1944. On that date, the Nazis rounded up the remaining 250 children in the ghetto in what was known as the Kinder Aktion and killed them. His mother survived the Holocaust and moved to New York, where she died in 1991, forty-seven years after the death of her little Samuel.

### **11. Hijman de Leeuw**

Beautiful Hijman was born June 14,

1938 in Amsterdam to Alexander and Marie Walvisch de Leeuw. His father was arrested and taken to Matthausen Concentration Camp, where he died in 1941 at age 31. Hijman and his mother were hidden until May of 1943, when they were discovered and deported to Sobibor concentration camp. Hijman and Marie de Leeuw died together on May 21, 1943.

### **12. Hanna Fuchs**

Hanna, the daughter of Alexander and Lily Fuchs, was born in Oradea in Romania in 1937. In 1940, the Jewish ghetto was created in Oradea near the Orthodox Synagogue and the Great Square. It was home to 27,000 Jews who slept 15 to a room and received little food and drink. The ghetto was liquidated by the Nazis between May 23, 1944 and June 27, 1944. During that period 27,215 Jews were sent to Auschwitz. Hanna died at Auschwitz in 1944, the date of her death unknown.

### **13. Eva Justitzova**

Sweet little Eva was born August 7, 1938 in Prague, the Czech Republic. She was transported to Terezin on December 14, 1941. Terezin was a city northwest of Prague built in 1781 as a fortress for the protection of the city. Terezin was not a death

camp, although few sent there ultimately survived. Eva was sent to Auschwitz where she died on May 18, 1944.

### **14. Jacques Waks**

Little Jacques was born April 12, 1939 in Paris, one of five children of Lajb and Laja Berliner Waks. He and his siblings were rounded up by the Nazis in a massive action in Paris on February 3, 1944. They were sent to Auschwitz on Convoy 68, which contained 1,500 people, 295 of whom were children. All five died at Auschwitz in 1944. Can you tell that Jacques is tickled by something in this picture and is just about to burst out laughing?

### **15. Ruth Shternheld**

Beautiful little Ruth was born on Passover, 1939 to Kzidor and Hilda Freidlander Shternheld. She died at Treblinka in 1942.

### **16. Gyorgy Grosz**

Little Gyorgy was from Budapest in Hungary. He died at Auschwitz in June of 1944 when he was two years old. Notice that he had been wearing a baby t-shirt and had a little tan line on his chest.

## 17. Emiel Menno Dreese

Emiel was from Amsterdam and his date of birth is unknown. He died in Sobibor Concentration Camp on July 16, 1943. Doesn't he have the most innocent looking little face?

## 18. Fani Silberman

Precious little Fani was born in Zilina, Czechoslovakia in May of 1937 to Jakob and Mania Silberman. She lived in the Krakow ghetto in Poland. She died at Auschwitz in 1942, although the specific date is unknown. Six thousand Jews were deported from the ghetto on October 27, 1942, 300 of whom were children, and it is possible that Fani died in this deportation. Fanni has been described to me many times as a "little light!" Don't you agree?

## 19. Jacky Yamniak

Jacky, short for Jacques, was born in Neuilly, France on June 11, 1938. He was arrested with his parents, Jean and Yolande, on February 26, 1944 in Grenoble, France. They were transported on Convoy 69 and died at Auschwitz on March 9, 1944.

## 20. Julia Bricht

Beautiful little Julia was born in Budapest, Hungary. We know only that she died at Auschwitz in 1944 at age 3.

## 21. Miklos Gardos

Sweet baby Milos was born October 4, 1942 in Pecs, Baranya, Hungary. He was just 20 months old when he died at Auschwitz in 1944.

## 22. Albert Barbanel

Albert is the oldest of the Beloved children. He was born August 9, 1933 in Paris and was eight years old when he died. The Nazis considered all children under the age of nine to be "useless eaters" meaning they took in calories but contributed nothing to society. Albert was deported to Auschwitz on Convoy 23 from Drancy on August 24, 1942. Of the 1000 people on the transport, 908 were gassed immediately on arrival at Auschwitz. Of the remaining 92, five survived in 1945.

## 23. Marcel Polack

Marcel was born January 2, 1939 in Groningen in the Netherlands. He was in hiding with his family, later discovered and deported to Westerbork Transit Camp. He died at Sobibor Concentration Camp on July 2, 1943 at the age of four.

## 24. Hanna Samson

Sweet Hanna was born to Marcus and Daisy Ezeckiel Samson on September 12, 1939 in Emmen, the Netherlands. She died at Auschwitz

## 1. Hersch Goldberg

Little Hersch was the son of Yosef and Eszter Sicherman Goldberg. He was born in Romania in 1939 and died at Auschwitz in 1944.

## 2. Edith Helena Bartels

Beautiful little Edith was the daughter of Eliazer and Johanna Bartels. She was born July 30, 1940 in Tilburg in the Netherlands. During the war, Edith and her parents were hidden in Tilburg in separate locations. Edith's hiding place was discovered when she was four years old, and she was deported to Auschwitz where she died on October 8, 1944. Her parents survived.

## 3. Alida Baruch

Baby Alida Baruch was born on January 26, 1942 to Salomon and Ruth Eva Horn Baruch in Amsterdam. She was deported to Auschwitz with her parents on July 16, 1942 when she was five months old. She was killed when she arrived at Auschwitz on July 18, 1942. Both of her parents died at Auschwitz in 1942. Doesn't she look like the Gerber baby?

## 4. Simone Frajermauer

Little Simone was born on March 28, 1940 in Brussels, Belgium. She was two and a half years old when

she died at Auschwitz on August 2, 1943. We affectionately call her "Little Thundercloud" because she is so mad in this picture. What a perfect expression for a two-year-old!

## 5. Israel Cogan

Sweet Israel was the son of Motel and Lea Grinberg Cogan and was born in 1937 in Chisinev, Romania. He was the first of the Beloved children to die. In 1941, the Romanian population turned on their Jewish neighbors and went door to door killing them. In one week, 10,000 people were slaughtered, and Israel died at that time. His death record simply says, "Cause of Death: Murdered". Look closely at his little left shoulder and you'll see that he was wearing a very large hand-me-down shirt in this picture. The photo was taken outside where he was playing with other boys, and I imagine them running and laughing and having fun as boys do everywhere.

## 6. Leon Futerman

Leon was three years old when he was arrested with his mother, Sarah Adamovitz Futerman, and his brother, Isaac, in August of 1942 in Paris. They were taken to Drancy, a transit camp outside of Paris, where